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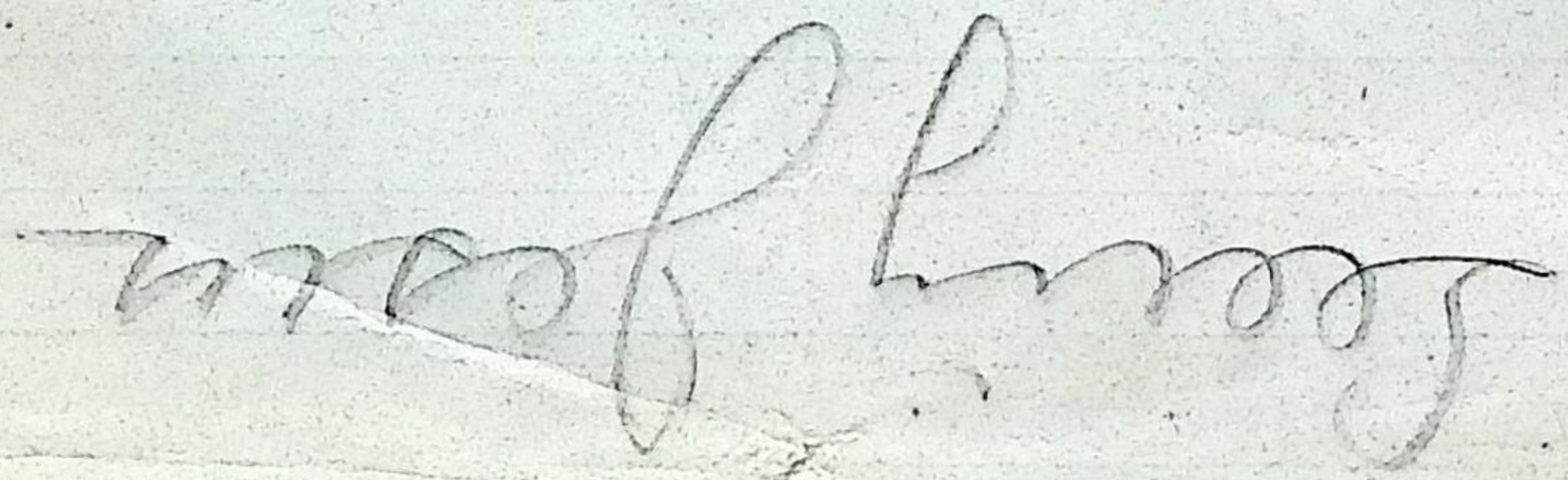

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"THE WORLD MUST SEE JESUS"

Jn 12:21 Sir, we would see Jesus.

These seekers after Jesus were Greeks.
1. The world's cultured folks.
2. Their culture did not satisfy them.
Their culture could not reach the spiritual depths of their longings.
They sought Jesus that their soul's thirst might be quenched.

I. **Only as the World Sees Jesus Can Its Soul's Deepest Need Be Satisfied.**

a. Only thus can it see God: "No man cometh unto the Father but by me." "He that seeth me, seeth Him that sent me."

b. Nothing else can supply this need: (1) Beauty; (2) Loveliness; (3) Strength; (4) Wealth; (5) Pleasure.

c. **Mere Hearing and Believing About Jesus** is not sufficient: (1) Mere hearing and believing reaches only the **Intellect**; (2) The heart—the seat of desire—must also open its door to receive Jesus; (3) The will—the seat of conduct—must also be ready to obey His word; (4) Jesus Himself attests it: "Ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free"; (5) Seeing Him means actual, personal knowledge of Him in daily life and experience.

II. **As the World Sees Jesus, It Is Transformed Into His Likeness:**

a. It is drawn to Him: (1) By His perfect character; (2) By His supreme love; (3) By His redeeming sacrifice. Thomas, when he saw His pierced hands, exclaimed: "My Lord and my God." "And when they saw Him, they worshiped Him."

b. His life-power enters the seat of the Soul: "Yet not I, but Christ in me." Seen in the lives of men: (1) Paul; (2) Augustine; (3) All true Christians.

III. **Jesus Has Long Been on Earth, but the World Has Largely Failed to See Him.**

a. Unbelievers: Jews, Unitarians, Skeptics, etc.

b. Non-professing Christians: Masses down the centuries.

c. Professing Christians: Philip—"Have I been so long time with you, and yet thou hast not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." Many in present-day churches: Jesus to them just a belief and not an experience. Their religion is merely their Church membership and Church attendance.

d. The reason why so much war and strife and sin still exists: Like these Greeks, the ear of man has heard but the soul has not yet seen Him.

IV. **The Big Business of the Church Is to Reveal Jesus to the World.**

a. Jesus has laid upon the Church this commission: "Ye are my witnesses." "Go ye into the world, and make disciples of all nations." The text illustrates it: These Greeks sought Jesus through Philip, the Master's disciple.

b. The Church has no alternative but to obey: (1) Jesus is depending upon it; (2) If it fails, the world will fail; (3) For men see Jesus chiefly as it sees Him through the daily lives of His followers.

V. **Does the World See Jesus in Us?** In our individual lives? In our Church? In our Homes? In our Business?

a. Jesus can accept only an affirmative answer. b. It is the Acid Test of all real Christian living, and all true preaching and teaching of the Gospel. c. Seen in the life of every great saint and every great religious leader.

Illustration

A little child on coming home from Sunday school, said to her mother: "I like my teacher, for she tells me every Sunday the story of Jesus." Is my life and yours just a daily repeated story of Jesus? When Mr. Sunday was conducting a campaign in a Western city, a prominent citizen, after much opposition, was persuaded to hear him. The next day, on being asked how he liked the evangelist, he replied: "I liked him so much I intend to hear him every day he remains in the city." On being asked what he particularly liked, he answered: "For the first time in my life, he made me see Jesus." No greater testimony could come to any man on earth. Whether a man has seen Jesus is the real test of his conversion. And, having seen him, whether through him others are seeing Jesus, is the true test of his Christian influence.